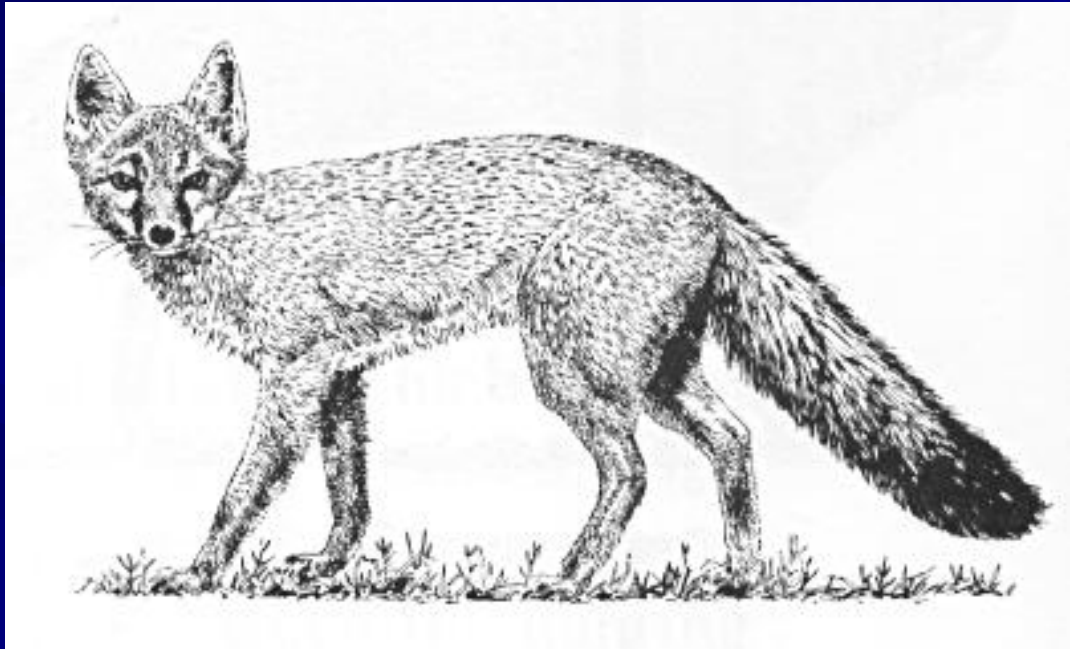


San Joaquin Kit Fox Habitat Evaluation



October 26, 2016 SLO County Biological Reporting Workshop



Brandon Sanderson
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/environmental/San_Joaquin_Kit_Fox.htm

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www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/environmental/San_Joaquin_Kit_Fox.htm

Residents and Visitors | Business | Health and Well-Being | Law and Justice | Government | Emergency

San Luis Obispo County
CALIFORNIA

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Planning & Building

James A. Bergman
Director

Bill Robeson
Deputy Director, Permitting


- ▶ Building Division
- ▶ Forms & Documents
- ▶ Land Planning
- ▶ Native Tree Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance
- ▶ New Water Requirements
- ▶ Permits
- ▶ PermitView
- ▶ Site Map
- ▶ Zoning & Maps

> [County Home Page](#) > [Planning and Building](#) > [Environmental Information and Natural Resources](#) > San Joaquin Kit Fox

San Joaquin Kit Fox

[Printer Version](#)

The San Joaquin kit fox is listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act and as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act. In San Luis Obispo County, kit foxes range from the grasslands and oak woodlands of the Salinas Valley in the north-central part of the county to the arid scrub habitat of the San Joaquin Valley and Carrizo Plains in the southeastern part of the county. Read more about it here:



[Kit Fox Regulation Brochure](#)

The California Environmental Quality Act requires the County to evaluate potential impacts to kit foxes and other listed species from project activities and requires the County to ensure that impacts to kit foxes from project activities are mitigated to an insignificant level before permits can be issued. If kit fox are present on a property and the project may result in "take" of kit fox, additional measures may be required.

You can view a map of the Standard San Joaquin Kit Fox Mitigation Ratio Areas here:

[San Joaquin Kit Fox Mitigation Ratio Area](#)

The following information is provided for projects located within the kit fox habitat area:

If your project occurs within the kit fox habitat area and requires kit fox mitigation, use this guide to kit fox mitigation measures to assist you through the mitigation process.

[Kit Fox Mitigation Measures Guide](#)

If your project occurs within the kit fox habitat area, and the parcel is 40 acres or more in size, a Kit Fox Habitat Evaluation must be conducted by a qualified kit fox biologist. The biologist will use these guidelines for completing the habitat evaluation.

[Kit Fox Habitat Evaluation](#)

[Kit Fox Habitat Evaluation Guidelines](#)

If your project occurs within the kit fox habitat area and the parcel is less than 40 acres in size, you may elect to accept the standard mitigation ratio for the area, which is based on the results of previous kit fox habitat evaluations and recent kit fox sightings. If you elect to accept the standard mitigation ratio, you may submit this acceptance form to the County with your project application.

[Acceptance Form for Standard Mitigation Ratio](#)

Waiting for www.slocounty.ca.gov...

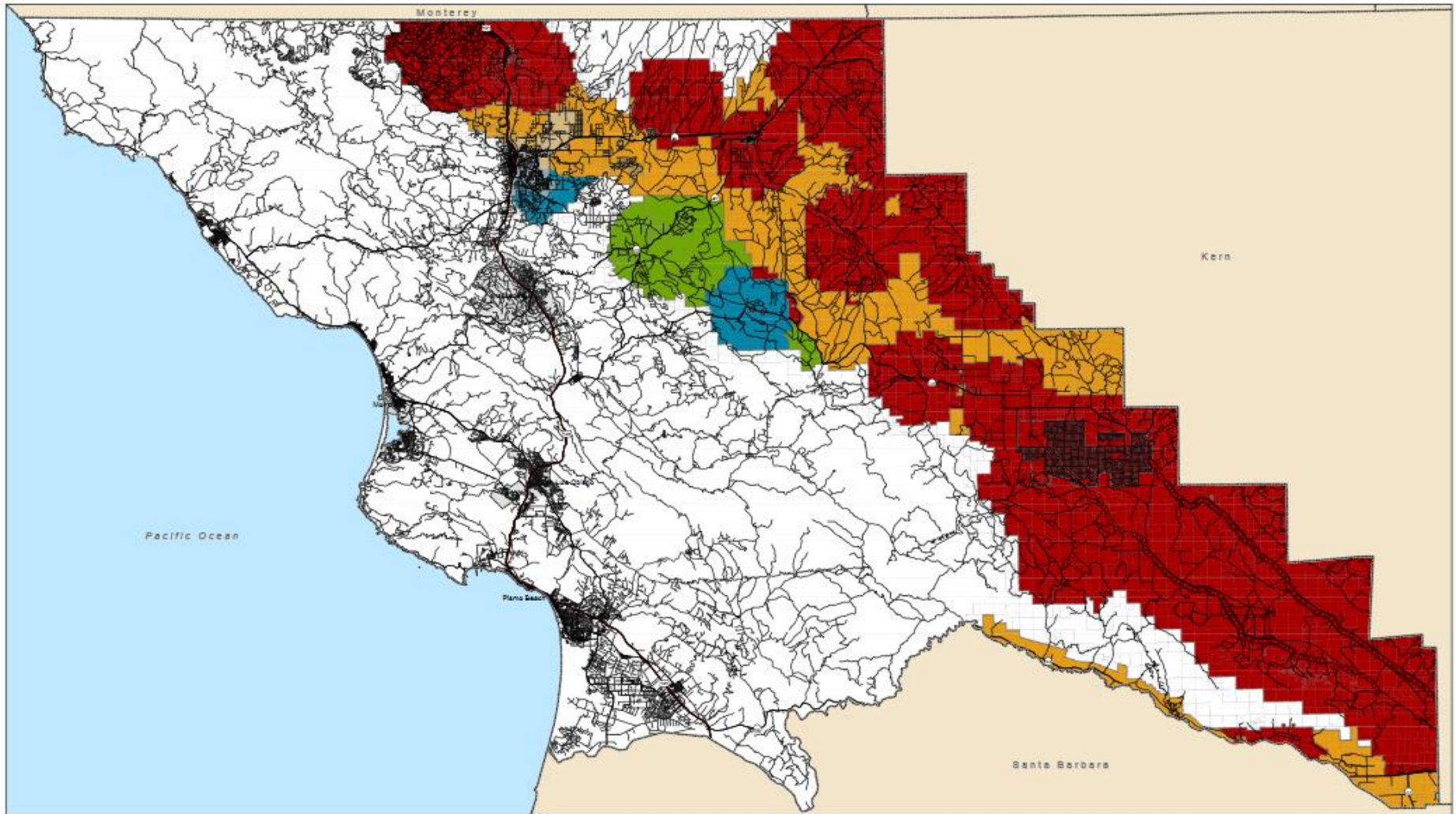
Kit Fox Habitat Evaluation

- Within kit fox range
and
- Project parcel is >40 acres
or
- <40 acres and applicant does not accept
standard mitigation ratio

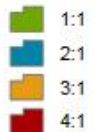
Note: If “take,” then take authorization will specify mitigation.



San Joaquin Kit Fox Standard Mitigation Ratio Areas

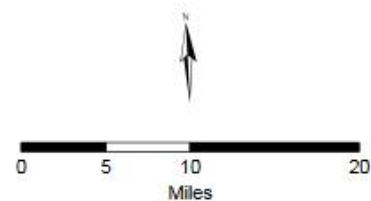


Standard Mitigation Ratio



Legend

- ★ SJKF Sightings (Last 10 yrs.)
- ~ Highway 101
- ~ State Highways
- City Limits
- Urban Areas
- Parcels



Geographic Technology & Design
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING

Kit Fox Habitat Evaluation Form

Cover Sheet

Project Name _____ Date _____

Project Location* _____

*Include project vicinity map and project boundary on copy of U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map
(size may be reduced)

U.S.G.S. Quad Map Name _____

Lat/Long or UTM coordinates (if available)

Project Description:

Project Size _____ Acres Amount of Kit Fox Habitat Affected _____ Acres

Quantity of WHR Habitat Types Impacted (i.e. - 2 acres annual grassland, 3 acres
blue oak woodland)

WHR type _____ Acres

WHR type _____ Acres

WHR type _____ Acres

WHR type _____ Acres

Comments: _____

Form Completed By:

Rev 3/02
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habitat

Kit Fox Habitat Evaluation Form

- Location
- Project Size
- Habitat On Site
- Project Impacts
- Isolation
- Project Shape
- Mortality
- Recent Observations



IMPORTANT!!

**STANDARD AVOIDANCE MEASURES
NEED TO BE IMPLIMENTED
REGARDLESS OF SCORE**



Is the project area within 10 miles of a recorded San Joaquin kit fox observation or within contiguous suitable habitat as defined in Question 2(A-E)?

YES - Continue with evaluation form

NO - Evaluation form/surveys not necessary



1. Importance of the project area relative to *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (Williams et al., 1998).



Recovery Strategy

- Pg. 135. Recovery Action a.xiii:
 - Protect and enhance corridors for movement of kit foxes through the Salinas-Pajaro Region and from the Salinas Valley to the Carrizo Plain and San Joaquin Valley.



1. Importance of the project area relative to *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (Williams et al., 1998).

- A. Project would block or degrade an existing corridor linking core populations or a core population to a subpopulation (20)
- B. Project is within core population (15)
- C. Project area is identified within satellite population (12)
- D. Project area is within a corridor linking satellite populations (10)
- E. Project area is not within any of the previously described areas but is within known kit fox range (5)



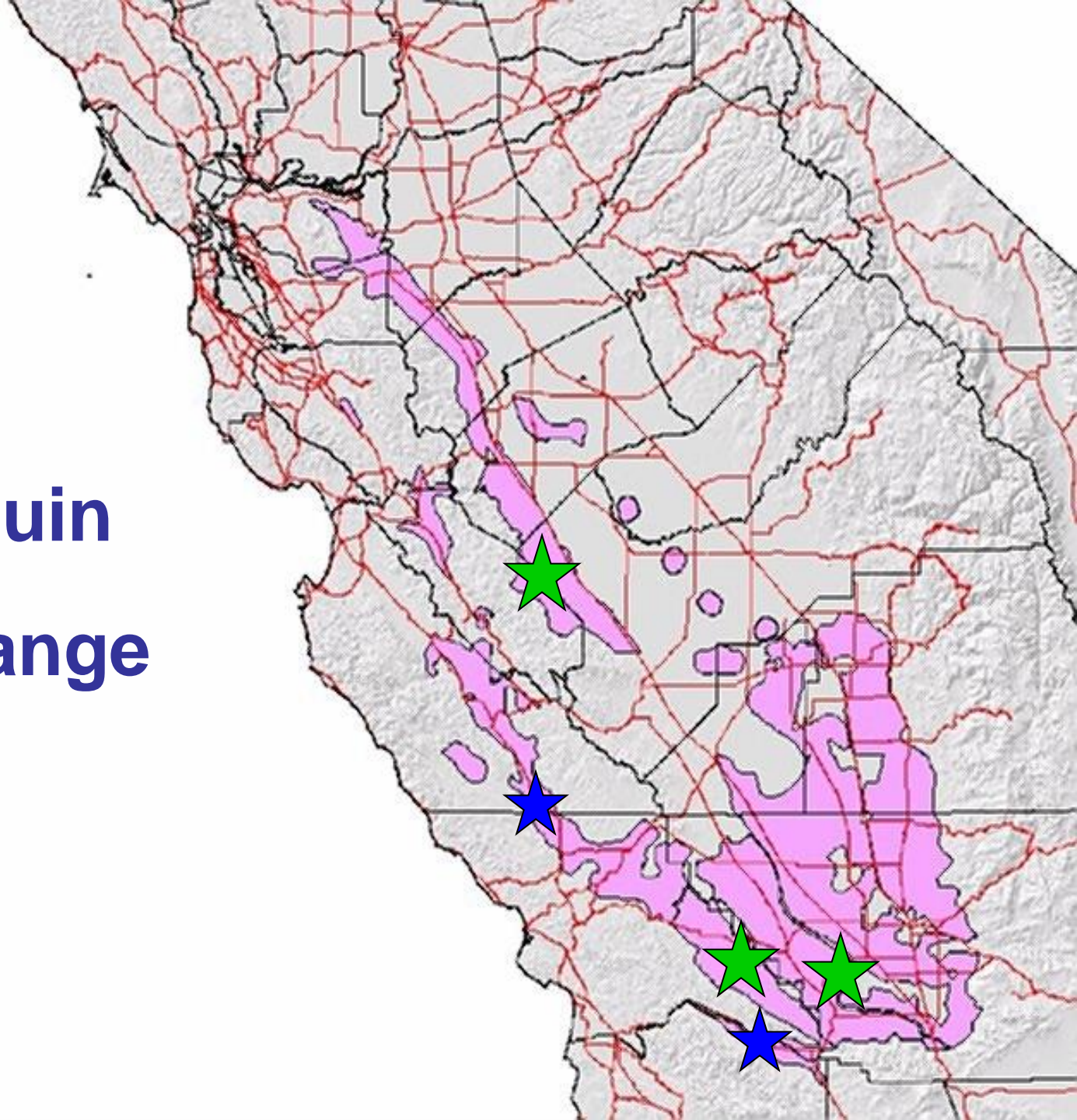
1. Importance of the project area relative to Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California (Williams et al., 1998).

A. Project would block or degrade an existing corridor linking core populations or a core population to a subpopulation (20)

- Core Populations: Carrizo, western Kern County, and Panoche.
- Satellite/Subpopulations: Salinas Valley (Camp Roberts, etc.) and Cuyama Valley.
- Corridor Area: San Miguel, Paso, Whitley Gardens, Shandon, Cholame, Creston and Surrounding Areas.



San Joaquin Kit Fox Range



Monterey County

The Land
Conservancy

**San Joaquin Kit Fox
Habitat Range In
San Luis Obispo County**

Map Key:

 San Joaquin Kit Fox Range

 San Luis Obispo County

 Urban Reserve Lines

 Major Highways

Scale:

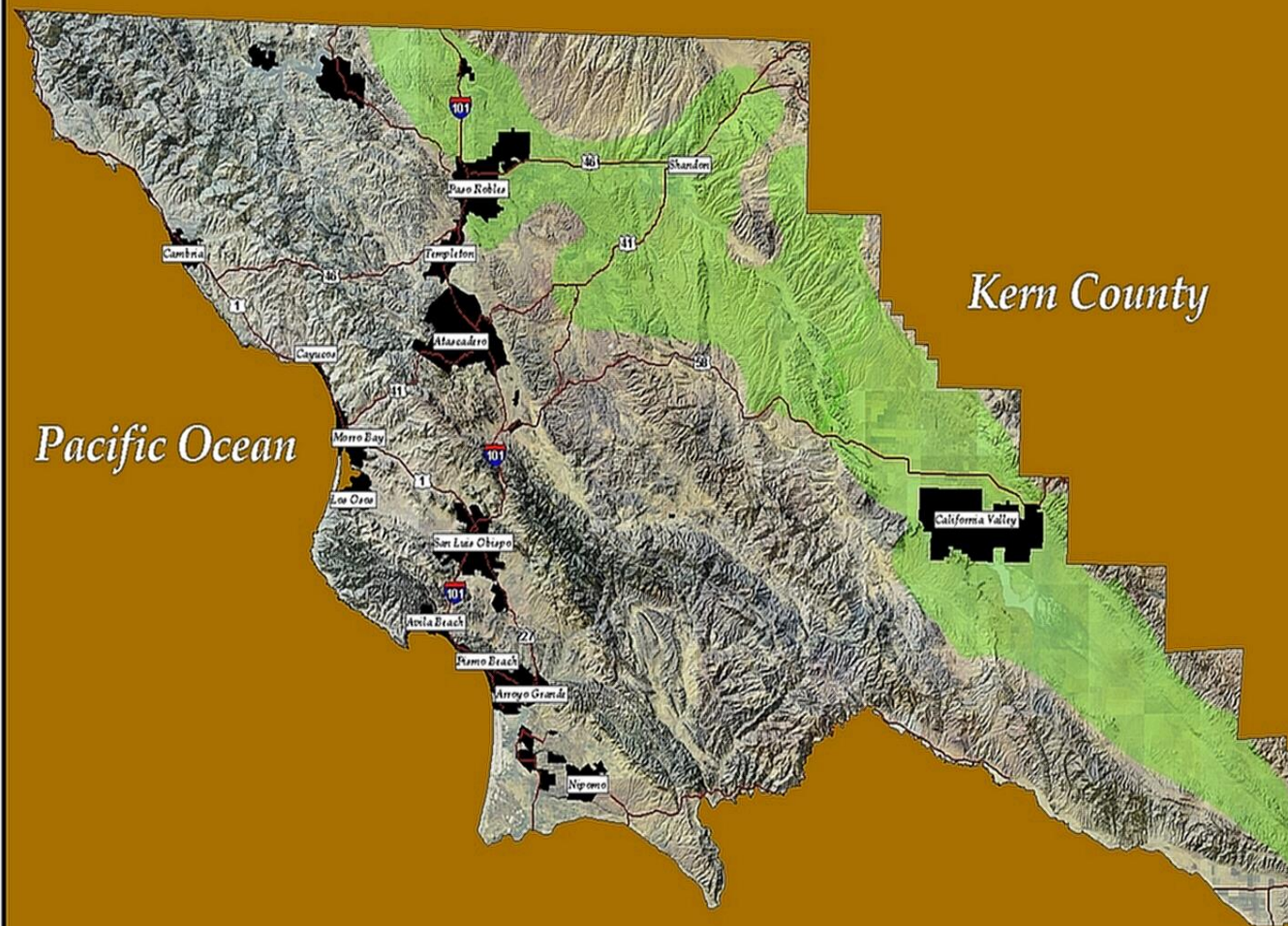
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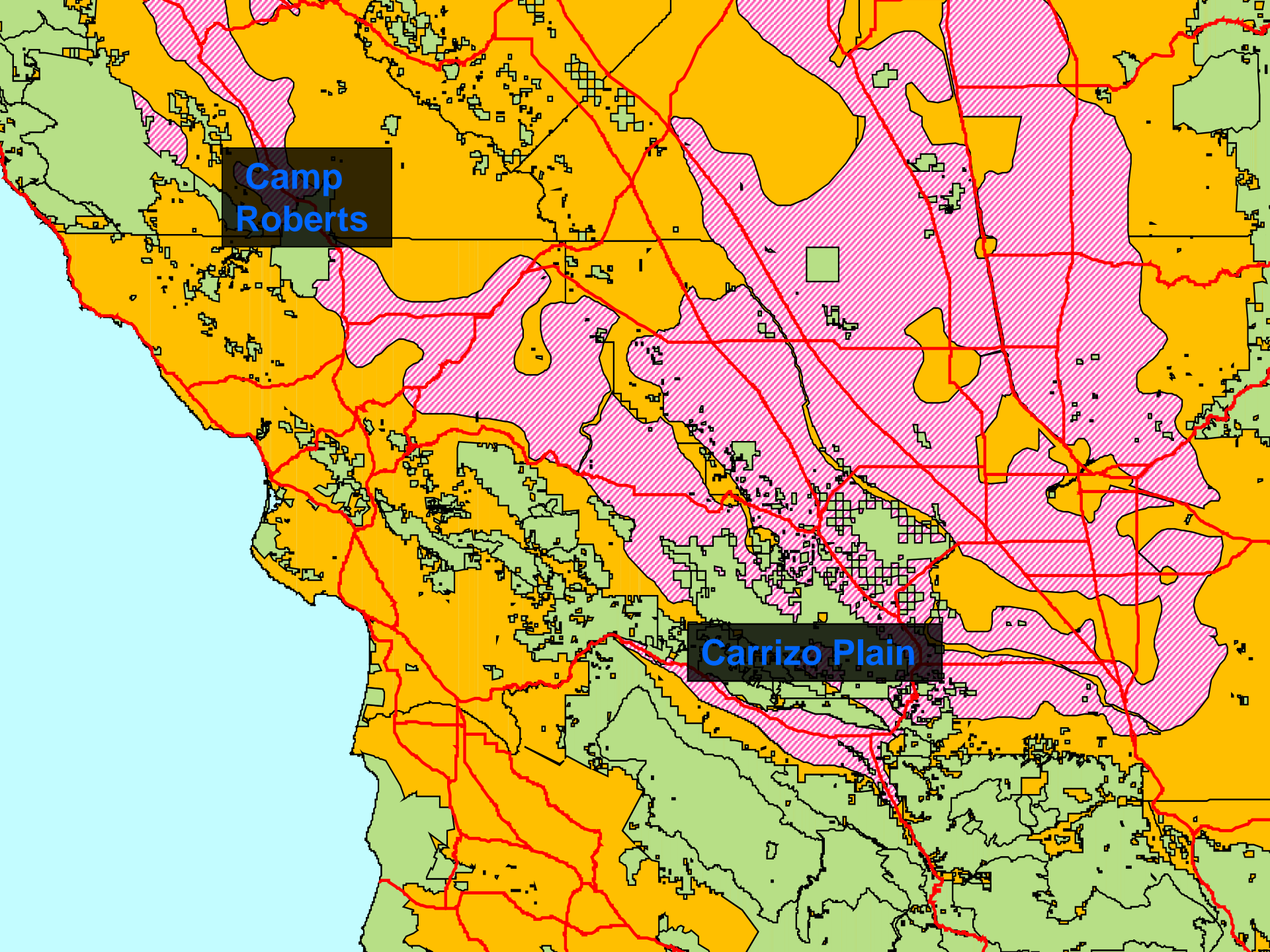


Pacific Ocean

Kern County

Santa Barbara County





Camp
Roberts

Carrizo Plain

1. Importance of the project area relative to Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California (Williams et al., 1998).
 - A. Project would block or degrade an existing corridor linking core populations or a core population to a subpopulation (20)
 - B. Project is within core population (15)
 - C. Project area is identified within satellite population (12)
 - D. Project area is within a corridor linking satellite populations (10)



1. Importance of the project area relative to Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California (Williams et al., 1998).

E. Project area is not within any of the previously described areas but is within known kit fox range (5)

- Known Kit Fox Range: (Atascadero, Templeton, & surrounding areas).
- *Drought conditions expand available kit fox habitat and population range.*











2. Habitat characteristics of project area.

- A. Annual grassland or saltbush scrub present >50 % of site (15)
- B. Grassland or saltbush scrub present but comprises <50% of project area (10)
- C. Oak savannah present on >50 % of site (8)
- D. Fallow ag fields or grain/alfalfa crops (7)
- E. Orchards/vineyards (5)
- F. Intensively maintained row crops or suitable vegetation absent (0)



















3. Isolation of project area

- A. Project area surrounded by contiguous kit fox habitat as described in Question 2a-e (15)
- B. Project area adjacent to at least 40 acres of contiguous habitat or part of an existing corridor (10)
- C. Project area adjacent to <40 acres of habitat but linked by existing corridor (i.e.-river, canal, aqueduct) (7)
- D. Project area surrounded by ag but less than 200 yards from habitat (5)
- E. Project area completely isolated by row crops or development and is greater than 200 yards from potential habitat (0)

A. Project area surrounded by contiguous kit fox habitat as described in Question 2a-e.

2. Habitat characteristics of project area.

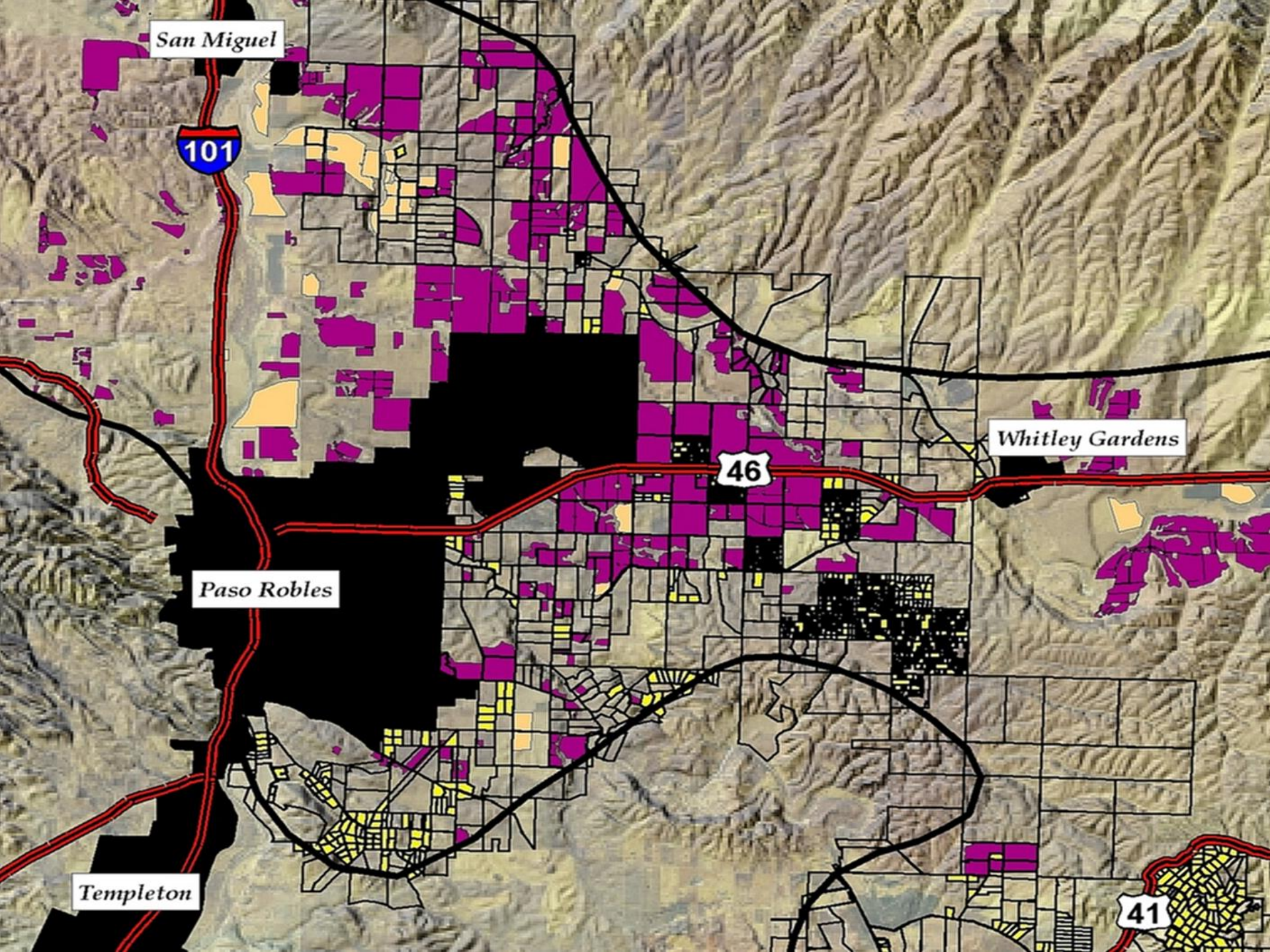
- A. Annual grassland or saltbush scrub present >50 % of site (15)
- B. Grassland or saltbush scrub present but comprises <50% of project area (10)
- C. Oak savannah present on >50 % of site (8)
- D. Fallow ag fields or grain/alfalfa crops (7)
- E. Orchards/vineyards (5)











San Miguel

101

46

Whitley Gardens

Paso Robles

Templeton

41

4. Potential for increased mortality as a result of project implementation. Mortality may come from **direct** (e.g. - construction related) or **indirect** (e.g. - vehicle strikes due to increases in post development traffic) **SOURCES**.

A. Increased mortality likely (10)

B. Unknown mortality effects (5)

C. No long term effect on mortality (0)

➤ *Note: Direct “take” would require CESA permitting.*





DO NOT
ENTER
WRONG
WAY

NO STOPPING
NO PARKING
NO LOADING
NO UNLOADING



5. Amount of potential kit fox habitat affected

- A. > 320 acres (10)
- B. 160 - 319 acres (7)
- C. 80 - 159 acres (5)
- D. 40 - 79 acres (3)
- E. 1 - 40 acres (1)
- F. < 1 acre (0)



6. Results of project implementation

- A. Project site will be permanently converted and will no longer support foxes (10)
- B. Project area will be temporarily impacted but will require periodic disturbance for ongoing maintenance (7)
- C. Project area will be temporarily impacted and no maintenance necessary (5)
- D. Project will result in changes to agricultural crops (2)
- E. No habitat impacts (0)











7. Project Shape

- A. Single block (10)
- B. Linear with >40 foot right-of-way (5)
- C. Linear with <40 foot right-of-way (3)



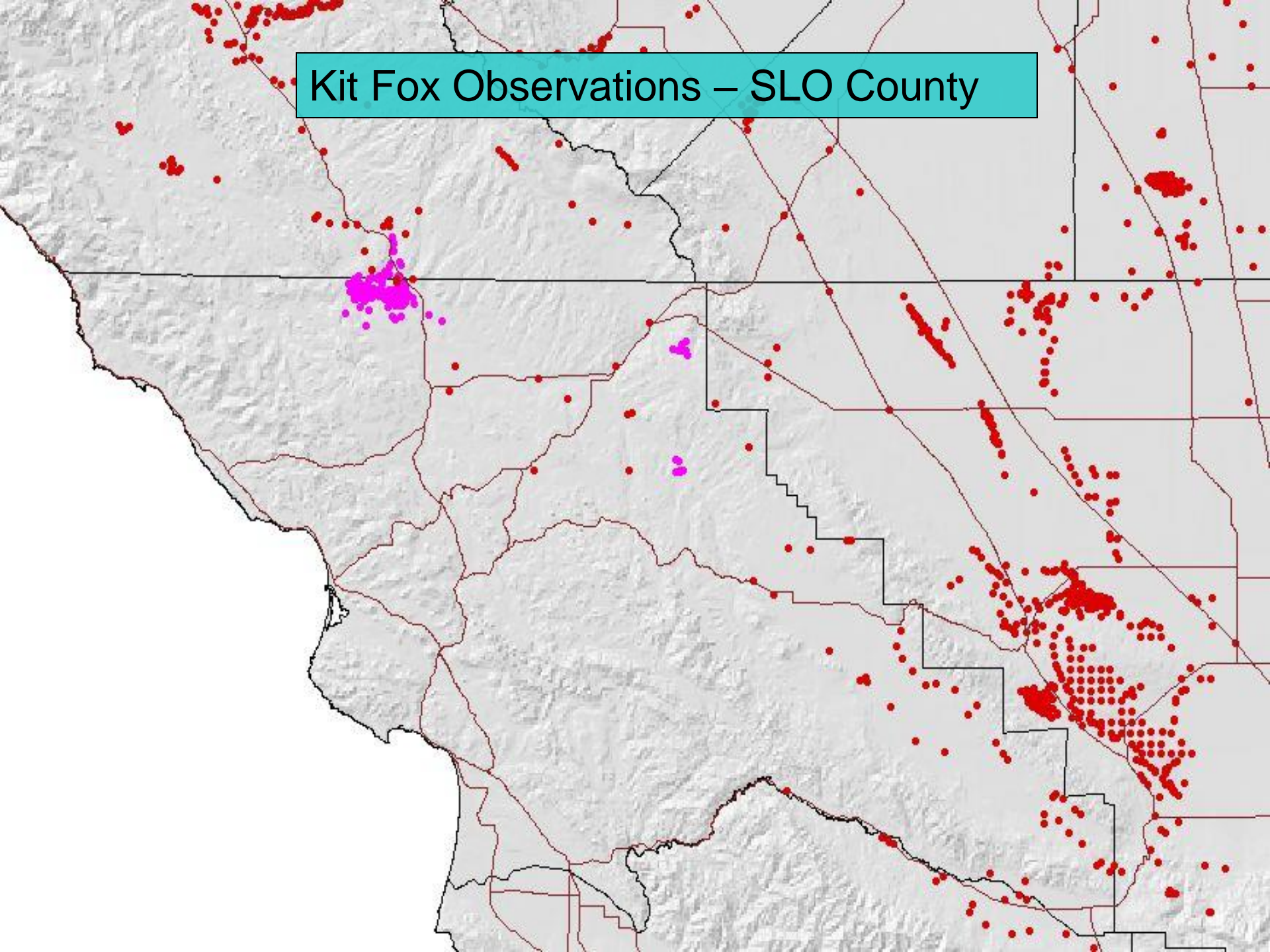
8. Have San Joaquin kit foxes been observed within 3 miles of the project area within the last 10 years?

A. Yes (10)

B. No (0)



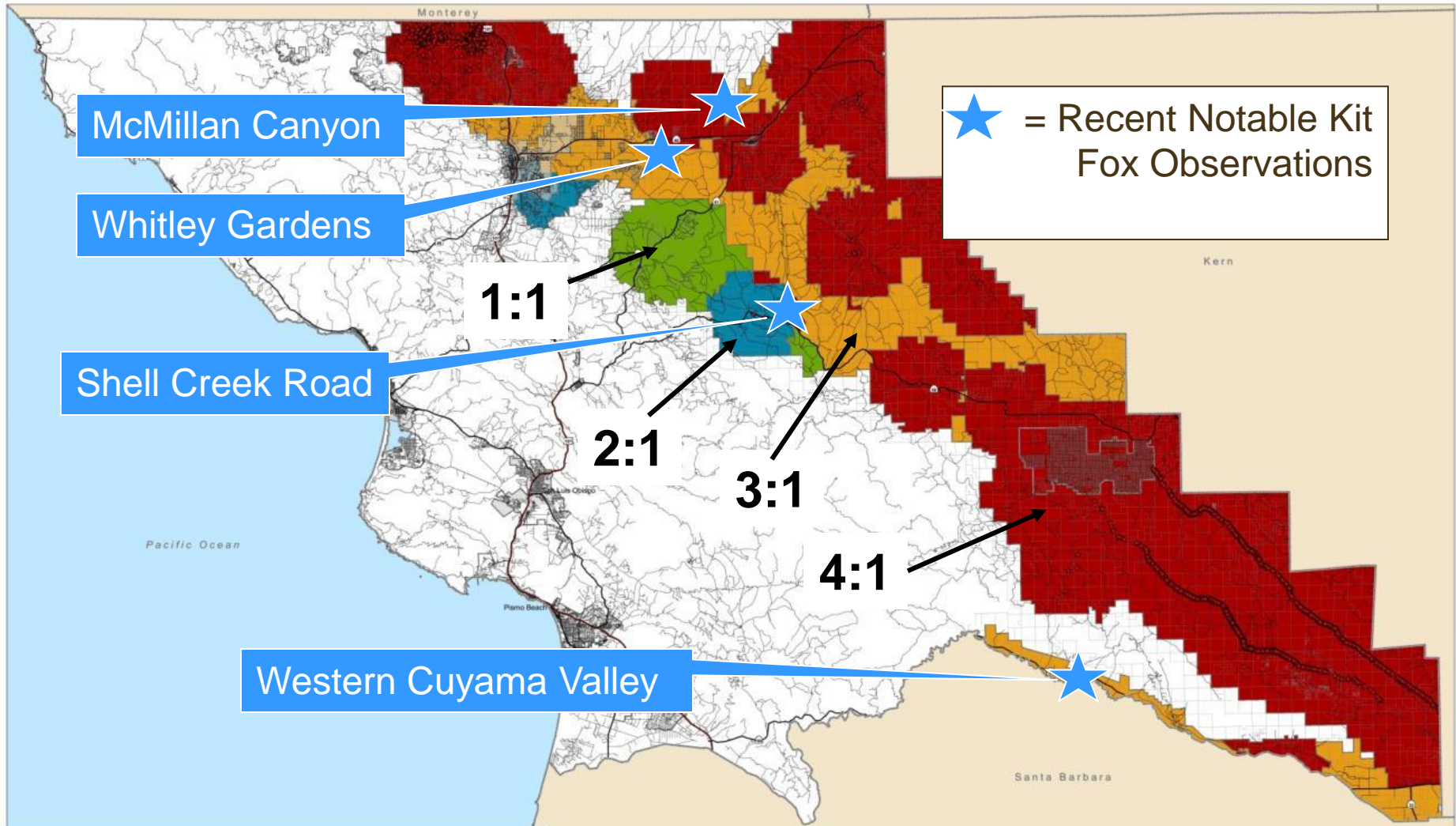
Kit Fox Observations – SLO County



Recent SJKF Observations

- 2014 scat collections verified at Smithsonian Lab:
 - Whitley Gardens
 - McMillan Canyon
- 2014 road kill on Hwy 166 Cuyama Valley
- 2013 Shell Creek Road Hwy 58

San Joaquin Kit Fox Standard Mitigation Ratio Areas

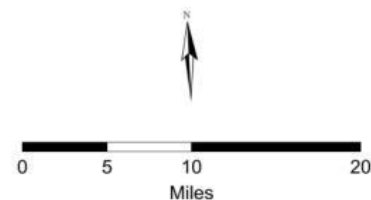


Standard Mitigation Ratio



Legend

- ★ SJKF Sightings (Last 10 yrs.)
- Highway 101
- State Highways
- City Limits
- Urban Areas
- Parcels



Geographic Technology & Design
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING

SCORING

1. Recovery importance

2. Habitat condition

3. Isolation

4. Mortality

5. Quantity of habitat impacted

6. Project results

7. Project shape

8. Recent observations

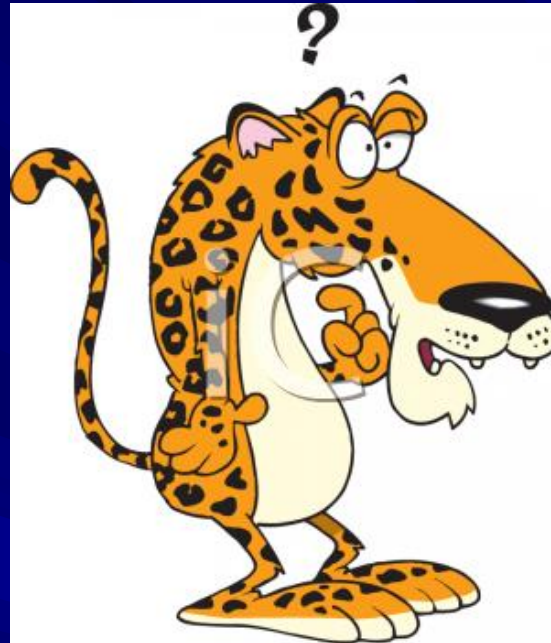
TOTAL

50s = 1:1, 60s = 2:1, 70s = 3:1, 80s = 4:1



Thank You!

Questions ???



Comments !!!

Concerns #?!

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